

Washington, DC - Congressman Travis Childers (D-MS), a member of the fiscally conservative Blue Dog Coalition Health Care Task Force, today announced the group's official set of conditions for responsible health care reform aimed at protecting consumer choice and promoting competition in the marketplace. The conditions reflect the Blue Dog position that, should a public option be included, it be structured in a manner that not only expands coverage for the uninsured, but ensures families have the ability to keep their current health coverage.

### **Congressman Travis Childers Announces Blue Dog Health Care Reform Conditions to Protect Consumer Choice, Promote Competition in the Marketplace**

June 4, 2009

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“Many hard working North Mississippi families are happy with the coverage they have and the doctors they see, and effective health care reform will not deny them the right to keep what they have,” said Congressman Childers. “It is essential that, if a public option is included in upcoming reform legislation, it will promote competition and preserve choice. The Blue Dog conditions will help ensure that any potential public option will be on a level playing field with private plans.”

The Blue Dogs' health care reform conditions address concerns about the viability of a "Medicare-like" public option, and specifically members' rejection of the idea that Medicare payment rates be used as the basis for reimbursement. In keeping with the Blue Dog tenet of fiscal responsibility, members have also insisted that any public health care option be financially stable, and that it be employed only in the absence of adequate competition and cost containment.

The complete Blue Dog Health Care Reform Conditions are attached.

The Blue Dog Health Care Task Force membership also includes: Rep. Mike Ross, Chairman, Rep. Marion Berry, Vice-Chairman, Rep. Parker Griffith, Vice-Chairman, Rep. Zack Space, Vice-Chairman, Rep. John Barrow, Rep. Jim Cooper, Rep. Jim Matheson, Rep. Mike Michaud, Rep. Collin Peterson, Rep. Earl Pomeroy, Rep. John Tanner, Rep. Mike Thompson and Rep. Charlie Wilson.

*A pro-gun, pro-life Mississippian, Congressman Travis Childers (D-MS) represents the First Congressional District in North Mississippi. He is a member of the fiscally conservative Blue Dog Coalition and serves on the House Agriculture and Financial Services Committee. Congressman Childers co-chairs the reestablished bipartisan Congressional Rural Caucus and was appointed to the bipartisan Second Amendment Task Force. For more information, visit*

<http://www.childers.house.gov/>

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